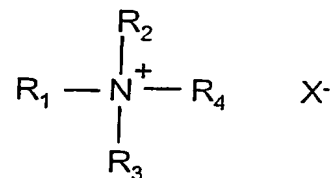


## Claims:

1. A quaternary ammonium composition essentially consisting of  
 a) a cationic compound with general formula:



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  is  $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkyl,  $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkenyl,  $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkylamidopropyl,  $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkenyl-amidopropyl,  $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl,  $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkanoylethyl or  $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkenylethyl,  $\text{R}_2$ ,  $\text{R}_3$  and  $\text{R}_4$  are  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkenyl or a group of the formula  $-\text{A}(\text{OA})_n\text{-OH}$ ,  $\text{A}$  is  $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4-$  and/or  $-\text{C}_3\text{H}_6-$ ,  $n$  is a number from 0 to 20 and  $\text{X}$  is an anion,

- b) water and  
 c) a non-ionic solvent of the general formula  $\text{R-O-(AO)}_n\text{H}$ , where  $\text{R}$  is hydrogen, alkyl or alkenyl containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms, or alkylphenyl,  $\text{A}$  is  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  and/or  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6$  and  $n$  is a number from 0 to 20, when  $\text{R}$  is alkyl or alkenyl and  $n$  is a number from 1 to 20 if  $\text{R}$  is hydrogen, which composition is characterized in that it contains less than 20 % by weight of water.

2. Composition, according to claim 1, which contains 5 to 60 % by weight of the cationic compound a).

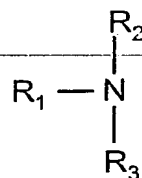
3. Composition, according to claim 1, wherein the cationic compound a) is an  $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkyl or  $\text{C}_8\text{-C}_{22}$ -alkenyl-dimethyl-hydroxyethyl ammonium.

4. Composition, according to claim 1, which has 40 to 95 % by weight of the non ionic solvent c).

5. Composition, according to claim 1, which has less than 5% of by-products.

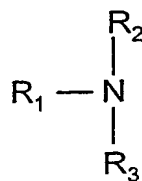
6. Composition, according to claim 1, which the non ionic solvent is an ethoxylated fatty alcohol, a fatty alcohol, a polyethylene glycol, a polypropylene glycol, a block co-polymer of ethylene and propylene, a nonylphenol, a ethoxylated nonylphenol or a mix of these compounds.

7. A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein  $R_4$  in the compound a) is defined as  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl or  $C_2$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl, which process consists in reacting an amine of the formula



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are as defined above with a halo alkyl or halo alkenyl of the formula  $R_4$ -X wherein  $R_4$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$ -alkyl or  $C_2$ - $C_{22}$ -alkenyl and X is chlorine or bromine in the presence of a non-ionic solvent c) as defined in claim 1.

8. A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein  $R_4$  in the cationic compound a) is defined as a group of the formula  $-A-(OA)_nOH$  wherein A and n are as defined in claim 1, which process consists of reacting an amine of the formula



with an inorganic halo acid and then reacting the ammonium salt thus obtained with ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide.

9. Process according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the amine is C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-alkenyl-dimethyl amine.
10. Process, according to claim 8, wherein the monohalo acid is aqueous,  
5 hydrochloric acid.
11. Process, according to claim 8, wherein the ammonium salt is reacted with ethylene oxide.
- 10 12. Process according to claim 8, wherein the non ionic solvent is Coconut PEG 7.
13. Process according to claim 8, wherein the first step is proceed in a temperature between 20 and 100°C.
- 15 14. Process according to claim 8, wherein the second step is proceeded in a temperature between 40 and 100°C.